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The new perspective on city living

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Poverty on the rise in New Jersey

EDISON, NJ—Despite the economic prosperity of the 1990's, both poverty and income inequality increased during the last decade in New Jersey. This, according to Kristin Mateo, senior researcher and policy analyst at Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ), is the central finding of a report released by LSNJ's Poverty Research Institute.

The report, entitled "A Desperate and Widening Divide: The Concurrent Increase in Poverty, Income and Inequality in New Jersey," is based on an analysis of data from the 1990 and 2000 Census. One of a series of reports by the Poverty Research Institute on the extent and impact of poverty in New Jersey, the new report was written by Mateo and Melville D. Miller, Jr., LSNJ president, and was funded in large part by a grant from the Fund for New Jersey. While it compares New Jersey data to national figures, the report-Mateo noted-also "uncovers and examines more localized income and poverty trends, by using county and city

level data."

Median household income in New Jersey, at \$55,146 the highest in the country in 1999, increased between 1989 and 1999, even after adjusting for

"The increase in poverty supports the growing belief that government policy and programs must be focused on raising people out of poverty, not just removing them from the welfare rolls."

inflation. But, Mateo pointed out, "even this indicator of relative prosperity is misleading as a picture of changes in the state during the decade. Increases in median income by county ranged from \$9,000 in Hunterdon County to \$144 in Essex. And many New Jersey cities," she continued, "experi-

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There's a lot of Black History to be seen in Atlantic City

ATLANTIC CITY, NJ—From its very beginning, the success of Atlantic City as a seaside resort depended in large part upon the contributions of African Americans. For this reason, the celebration of Black History Month carries special significance in Atlantic City.

Three factors enabled Atlantic City to grow from a small bathing village to a flourishing resort, according to Herbert James Foster, author of *The Urban Experience of Blacks in Atlantic City, New Jersey, 1850 - 1915*. "One ingredient for success was rail transportation linking Atlantic City with Philadelphia, New York City, and even cities of the West," Foster writes. "The second was the development of hotels and entertainment facilities to attract tourists, and the third was a service work force to run those facilities. Beginning in the 1870s, blacks were attracted in great numbers to fill these jobs."

Foster's research is among several scholarly works in the Atlantic City Library's Heston Collection, which documents the history of the resort.

Another study on the role of blacks is *Three Months to Hurry and Nine Months to Worry: Resort Life for African Americans in Atlantic City, New Jersey (1850-1940)*, by Richlyn F. Goddard.



Paradise Chorus Line, circa 1940. From the Chris Colombo Collection Atlantic City Historical Museum.

Goddard notes that when Atlantic City was incorporated on March 3, 1854, it had nearly 1,500 residents — 12 percent of whom were African Americans. "Following the Civil War," Goddard writes, "African

Americans not only migrated to work in the hotel-recreation industry but they also laid the tracks for the resort's early railroad lines between 1852 and 1880, and labored intensively erecting Atlantic City's infrastructure that transformed the island's topography of sand dunes and wooded fields."

As Atlantic City grew into America's most popular resort, African Americans laid the foundation of its service industry. "During the period from 1905 to 1925, 95 percent of the hotel employees were black," Foster writes. "In the 1870s and 1880s they had come to work only for the summer months and then returned to their respective communities. However, as the hotels and the resort grew in popularity at the turn of the century and were occupied the year around, black hotel workers found annual rather than seasonal employment."

By 1950 Atlantic City's population was almost 60,000, of which nearly 36 percent were African American. There was a

See ATLANTIC CITY on page 7

The Black Community confronts sexuality, HIV

Special to the NNPA from the Black AIDS Institute

[EDITOR'S NOTE: This is the first installment of the Drumbeat Project, an unprecedented collaboration to sound the alarm on the HIV/AIDS epidemic. Television, radio, magazines, newspapers and websites with a combined audience of more than 40 million are joining forces to highlight the fight against AIDS and the toll it is taking on the African-American community.]

When 23-year-old Adolph St. Arromand decided to tell his father he had HIV, he picked an outdoor café in a New York City gay neighborhood. He chose the location in case he needed to run.

"I figured if he started beating on me, I could disappear into a bar and he wouldn't fol-

low," said the Newark, N. J., resident.

It was a self-protectiveness justified by past experience. When he was 15, St. Arromand confessed to his family that he had romantic feelings for other men. Soon afterward, members of his church-led by his grandfather, a preacher-arrived at his house in a big group.

"They wanted to drive the devil out of me, so they held the equivalent of an exorcism," St. Arromand said. "And when it didn't work, they politely told me that I would bring shame on the family, that I should find some other place to live, and put me into the street."

As the African-American community grapples with AIDS rates that are 10 times higher than that for Whites, it is also confronting its feelings about an issue that frequently goes

See HIV on page 6

Did you know?

The rate of
AIDS for African
Americans was
8 times that of
whites.¹

African American
children represent
67% of all AIDS
cases among
children in the U.S.⁴

African
Americans
comprised
nearly 52%
of estimated
annual new HIV
infections.²

African American
women represent
63% of all new
AIDS cases among
women in the U.S.

HIV/AIDS
was the leading
cause of death
in 2000 for
Black men
between ages
of 25-34.³

Though Black youth
ages 13-19 represent
13% of the adolescent
population in the U.S.,
they accounted for 61%
of the reported AIDS
cases in 2000.⁴

African

Without these firsts,
American History wouldn't
be the same.



Dr. Daniel Hale Williams, performed the first successful heart operation in 1893

Madame C.J. Walker, first self-made American woman millionaire • Hyman S. Thomas, invented the potato chip, originally known as the Saratoga chip • Matthew A. Henson, first man to set foot on the North Pole • Jessie Janze Mark, first woman to earn a doctorate in botany • Isaac Murphy, won the very first Kentucky Derby • Dr. Charles Drew, discovered the method for preserving blood plasma • Jewel LaFontaine Mankarious, first woman to argue a case before the U.S. Supreme Court • Yvonne Clark, first woman to earn B.S. in chemical engineering at Harvard • Louis Armstrong, first to sing in "Scatting" style • Otis Boykin, invented guided missile device • Jane Wright, pioneered several advances in the field of chemotherapy • Frederick McKinley Jones, inventor of portable X-ray machine • William A. Hinton, developed first test for syphilis • Norbert Rillieux, developed the first system for refining sugar • S. Boone, invented the first ironing board • Frank Grant, inventor of the baseball chingard • L.D. Neuman, inventor of the hairbrush • Shelby J. Davidson, created the first adding machine • William Warwick Cordozo, pioneered the study of sickle cell anemia • Kurtis Blow, first rap artist

You can't talk about Black history without talking about American history.
Let's remember the African Americans who helped build America.

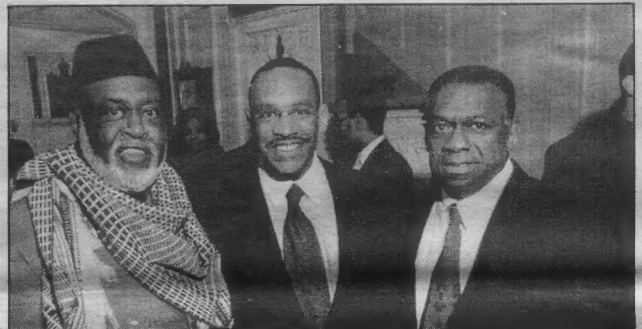
 **Washington Mutual**

Glen's Photo Album

Photos by Glen Frieson



Art in the Atrium Gala Opening Reception — Pictured Russell Murray, curator; Lani Guinier, Harvard Law School professor; Nolan A. Bowie, artist; Amina Baraka, artist; Amiri Baraka, author & poet; Philip Thomas, New Jersey Performing Arts.



Leroy Jones, Jr. Fundraiser — Pictured is Belozi Harvey; Former assemblyman Leroy, Jones Jr., Leroy Jones Sr.



State Senator Nia Gill, (right) welcomes guest speaker Patricia Williams to the Women's Political Leadership lecture series at the Montclair Public Library.



Attendees at the Mayor of Irvington State of the City Address — Irvington councilwomen Lebbby C. Jones; Sandra R. Jones and Andrea C. McElroy attend Mayor Wayne Smith's first State of the City Address.



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National Briefs

VIRGINIA COURTS PICK FIRST BLACK CHIEF JUSTICE

(Special to the NNPA)-The state legislature of Virginia will elect Leroy Hassell to become the 24th Chief Justice of the state's Supreme Court, its first Black chief justice.

Hassell will become one of only four Black chiefs nationwide. The other jurists serve in Maryland, Washington, D.C., and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

A native of Norfolk, Hassell graduated from the University of Virginia with honors in 1977 and earned his juris doctorate from Harvard Law School in 1980. A former partner of a prestigious law firm in Richmond, Hassell was appointed to the Supreme Court of Virginia in December 1989 at age 34.

"The first time I met him he told me he was going to Harvard Law School," friend and University of Virginia classmate George Martin told reporters. "He hadn't been to one class yet his first year of college, and I met him in a dorm and that was the first thing he said."

Hassell was second-in-line to succeed Harry L. Carrico as chief justice. However Virginia replaced the seniority system with procedures for the justices to elect their top administrator. Hassell will serve a term of four years.

"It sends a message to the community that if you have the qualifications, you can be who you want to be," said Rosewell Page III, a former law partner that aggressively recruited Hassell.

LAWSUIT SAYS DAIMLERCHRYSLER TREATED BLACK CAR BUYERS UNFAIRLY

(Special to the NNPA)-DaimlerChrysler, the nation's third-largest automobile manufacturer, has systematically denied loans to African-Americans based on their race and where they live, according to a suit filed in U.S. District Court.

The suit is seeking class-action status against DaimlerChrysler Services, was filed last week on behalf of six Chicago residents who were denied credit for vehicles under zero-percent and low-interest financing offered since October 2001.

"We're saying they didn't just add hidden charges, they boycotted or redlined Black customers," said Steve Berman, Seattle attorney and the plaintiff's lead counsel in the suit against Chrysler. "They all had good credit ratings, and all of them passed Chrysler's own rating system."

Chrysler customer Jerrell Coburn told reporters he expected to receive 2.9 percent financing on a vehicle he purchased. However, Coburn received 9 percent.

"Once it was time to sign the papers, I asked what happened. The dealership told me this was the best they could do," Coburn said in the lawsuit. "I should have walked away, but I was caught up in the excitement of driving away in my new car," said Coburn.

Among other charges, the suit says Chrysler illegally repossessed vehicles from 70 Black customers after they were approved for financing. It quotes a Chrysler executive as using racial slurs in meetings with dealers as he explained that a Black Chrysler employee was fired because he had approved the 70 loans.

James Ryan, a spokesman for DaimlerChrysler, told reporters the company had not seen the suit. However, he said, "We're absolutely outraged by the allegations and deny each of them. We're confident our credit evaluation process treats all applicants fairly and lawfully. Our credit decisions are based on creditworthiness and are colorblind."

GHANA'S CHOICE: MINING GOLD OR SAVING FORESTS

ACCRA, Ghana (GIN)-Foreign mining companies are lining up here for new licenses, posing a dilemma for Ghana's president, John Agyekum Kufuor, and his administration. The mines could earn some \$2 billion in badly-needed foreign investment. But they could bring irreparable harm to the pristine forests where the mines would be built.

Five mining companies have applied for licenses to mine gold ore, and a sixth wants to mine aluminum ore, or bauxite, which is also inside protected forest areas.

Australian company Newmont, which has proposed the biggest of the gold-mining operations, would create about 1,000 jobs immediately, and would bring \$500 million to Ghana's ailing economy.

Dutch company Bhp Billiton would invest \$1 billion to set up a bauxite mining and processing industry. Ghana has long been seeking an investor to set up this kind of infrastructure. With Ghana's economy currently in bad shape, this and other investments are badly needed.

The Ghanaian Minerals Commission, which regulates mining there, is in favor of granting the licenses but no final decision has been taken yet.

The Ashcroft Syndrome: Racial bias and the federalization of America's death penalty

Attorney General John Ashcroft has dramatically stepped up efforts to seek federal death sentences, and is now frequently demanding that his local prosecutors seek a death sentence when the defendant is black, Latino or Native American, the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty said recently.

Since taking office two years ago, Ashcroft has overturned local U.S. district attorneys' decisions not to seek the death penalty 28 times. Of these 28 "overrides," two involved suspects who are white; 23 involved suspects who are black, Latino or Native American; and three involved suspects whose race could not be determined.

Ashcroft also has directed prosecutors to seek death sentences in states that do not have a death penalty. Last year, a death sentence was handed down in Michigan, which has not had a death penalty in 150 years. In addition, officials currently are seeking death sentences in Massachusetts, Vermont and Washington, D.C. and have contemplated seeking death sentences in Rhode Island, Hawaii and Puerto

Rico.

Not one of these jurisdictions has a state death penalty.

"The fact that at least 82 percent of the attorney general's overrides involve minority defendants speaks for itself and speaks rather loudly," said Steven W. Hawkins, executive director of the National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty. "Furthermore, we have an administration that openly

"...more and more people come to understand that government makes mistakes - and when it comes to the death penalty, there are no do-overs."

speaks of its reverence for 'states' rights,' but is seeking the death penalty in jurisdictions where it is clearly not wanted."

Since 1976, when executions were allowed to resume in the United States, the death penalty largely has been a

province of the states. Of the approximately 3,500 people currently under sentence of death, only 33 are on federal and military death rows, with the remainder residing on state death rows. Of the 831 people executed since 1976, 829 were executed by the states and two by the federal government.

Hawkins noted that both support for the death penalty and the number of people being sentenced to death has declined in recent years as elected officials and the public in most states come to understand the costs and mistakes that accompany the death penalty system.

"The federal government is going backward," he said. "Dozens and dozens of federal death penalty cases are pending throughout the United States even as more and more people come to understand that government makes mistakes - and when it comes to the death penalty, there are no do-overs."

The National Coalition to Abolish the Death Penalty was founded in 1976 and is the only fully-staffed national organization devoted specifically to abolishing the death penalty.

Poverty on the rise in NJ

Continued from page 1

enced significant declines in their adjusted income over the decade, with poverty rates generally double to triple the statewide average." Income inequality statewide was highlighted by the fact that the income of the top one-fifth in the state was equal to the combined income of the other four-fifths.

The statewide increase in household income did not prevent an increase in New Jersey's poverty rate, from 7.6% to 8.5%. And the number of people in poverty increased during the decade as well, moving from 573,152 in 1989 to 699,668 in 1999—a gain, Mateo noted, "greater than the entire population of Hunterdon County." Mateo explained that the definition of poverty used for the Census data, the federal poverty threshold, "greatly understates the number of people who cannot afford the real cost of living, especially in a high cost of living state like New Jersey." In 1999, the year on which Census 2000's data is based, the federal poverty threshold for a single-parent family of three was \$13,423-

"far from adequate to meet a family's most basic food, clothing, shelter and medical needs." Using a measure of "effective poverty" set at 200% of the federal poverty threshold, Mateo indicated that 20.4% of New Jerseyans lived in poverty in 1999—nearly 1.7 million people. Other findings highlighted by Mateo in her presentation of the poverty report included:

* Nearly half of those living in poverty had incomes below one-half the federal poverty level.

* A disproportionate percentage of children, at 10.8%, and families headed by single women, at 27.4%, lived in poverty. County-level figures for children in poverty were as high as 28% in Hudson County and, for families headed by single women, more than 36% in Essex, Hudson and Cumberland counties.

* The overall poverty rate, 8.5% statewide, ranged between 2.6% in Hunterdon County and 15.6% in Essex County.

* The poverty rates were disproportionately high for both Blacks, at 18.6%, and Hispanics, at 17.9%.

Miller, LSNJ president, outlined "potential policy and pro-

gram directions for government and society" suggested by the findings in the poverty report. The increase in poverty, he said, "supports the growing belief that government policy and programs must be focused on raising people out of poverty, not just removing them from the welfare rolls." The "persistently and disproportionately high prevalence of poverty in single-parent households," he continued, "suggests the need for differentiated, flexible and readily-accessible supports for such single parents."

Cautioning that, "great care must be taken not to make further cuts in programs that benefit the poor," Miller said that "there is a need, as well, for policies responsive to the evidence of the disparate impact of poverty on racial and ethnic minorities," and "special measures to protect those facing the most severe poverty." "It is our hope," he concluded, "that the findings presented here will help to illuminate the very real and significant issues facing hundreds of thousands of New Jersey citizens, and that this report will act as a catalyst for a broader dialogue on poverty."

Editorial

Parking violations should not be a criminal offense

Why do more and more New Jerseyans feel that New Jersey is becoming increasingly a state harder in which to live? It might be that those things, which are fundamental for living forget quality living, are becoming out of reach for the average New Jersey citizen.

Take for example, a parking ticket in New Jersey can cause a resident to lose his or her license, increase the already exorbitant car insurance premiums, which could impact greatly on your ability to maintain your job.

If the administration or the legislature had the will to remedy this situation, it could be done immediately. First, eliminate the possibility of losing a license based on non-payment of a parking ticket. Increasing the fine over the period that the ticket is not paid seems the more civil punishment for such a minor offense. You may ask why all the worry over a parking ticket? Here is a real life case.

Paul over parked at a meter in Woodbridge. When he got the ticket, he put it in his glove compartment where he promptly forgot about it. Six months later Paul is driving through Scotch Plains when he is pulled over for a light out in the back of his car. The officer runs his plates and comes back, tells Paul to get out of the car and calls a tow truck to take his car because he is driving without a license. Of course he disputes the claim, plus he never got a notice about any suspension. Checking the mail at home, he realizes that the unopened NJ Motor vehicle envelop which he thought was a reminder to register his car, was actually a suspension notice. Surely anything as serious as a license suspension would have come by registered mail. Now Paul is unable to drive putting his job at risk, and he has a parking ticket, points on his license and an insurance surcharge all from a \$7 dollar parking violation. Unfortunately, it can escalate from there as it has with many individuals who have been treated as criminals as a result of an overtime parking violation.

If Gov. McGreevey is serious about overhauling the DMV, he should set up a time to listen to the weary New Jersey drivers who catch hell for just trying to drive in this state due to the unwarranted overuse of license suspensions.

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State of the Union: On the Wrong-Track

By Ron Walters

It is clear from the recent public opinion polls that the fortunes of George Bush are declining with the American people. His single-mindedness about Iraq, described on the front cover of "U.S. News and World Report" as "hell bent for war," reminds me of the days when the country was telling the Republican Party that President Bill Clinton shouldn't be impeached, but they were resolute in doing it anyway. Republicans paid a price for their defiance of the American people in being characterized as mean-spirited and just plain wrong, and of elevating their narrow political agenda over the well-being of the people.

This war is such a case and again, the public is speaking. Recent polls by the Washington Post/ABC News, the Wall Street Journal and the Zogby, all taken within the last three weeks, have George Bush's favorability ratings going down by an average of 10 percent from the first of the year. The polls indicate that people are saying that they not only do not want a rush toward war, but that they want the United Nations more fundamentally involved in any decision to resolve the Iraq problem by military violence.

I'm not sure that George Bush has heard them. In his State of the Union address, Bush wanted to soften up the audience by dealing first with domestic issues, to create the impression that he cared more about domestic state of the nation. Bush's view that the internal condition of the United States is strong was never explained. In fact, he contradicts the state of Wall Street, the state of the federal budget, the state of the declining revenue at state levels, the state of increasing poverty and the high state of anxiety among Americans because he has left Osama bin Laden out there somewhere.

One of the major reasons for this is Bush's war preparations; the cost of the domestic agenda competes with the war economy. For example, the National Governors Association is urging Congress to provide states the \$50 billion, but the president's budget includes only \$3.8 billion. If states do not get these funds, they will have to take it out of the hide of their residents. In fact, the less the federal budget includes of social programs, the more states will have to pick up the funding.

In this context, the Bush budget proposes to "leave no child behind" but does not provide the needed \$8 billion to fully fund this program. The speech did not push for funds for higher education for Black colleges nor relief for states that have taken from higher education budgets to lower their deficits. States are forced to cut funds for student aid and raise tuition, which hurts Black and Hispanic students most.

Then, many states had hoped to get additional funds to make welfare reform work, such as money for transportation, child care and job training subsidies to recipients and their families. As I have said in this column before, welfare reform has been declared a "success" but the pressure on the women who are being forced into jobs distorts this success. The pressure is being felt on children, creating what the Urban Institute calls "no-parent families." Children are being pressured into the homes of grandparents, other relatives and friends, and government agencies. Studies are now being done on grandmothers who are feeling the pressure and researchers have found that the children are performing poorly in school and in life.

Under these circumstances, many have opposed that part of Bush's speech which calls for another tax cut that is based on the trickle-down

model. The previous massive tax cut supported by the Democrats has proven that the rich will not necessarily invest these funds in ways that result in economic growth and job creation. If it had happened, we would not be in the current deficit. This is simply a continuation of the attempt by conservatives to de-fund the federal government's responsibility for social programs and to shove the responsibility down to the states.

One of the only positive aspects of the State of the Union speech was the \$15 billion promised for AIDS in Africa over the next 10 years. Actually, this amount came as a result of the embarrassment the United States suffered last summer when it refused to go the Durban Conference against Racism and U.S. officials proposed a paltry \$400 million for AIDS programs. The amount was roundly condemned as too little for the richest country in the world.

As the State of the Union speech did not convince the American people that they should go to war against Iraq, the subsequent speech by Secretary of State Colin Powell to the United Nations provided a wealth of circumstantial evidence, but did not present any urgent reason why America should fight Iraq. The same speech could have been made about Iran, a more formidable military power or any one of other countries, but we are to believe that this one is not only a danger to the Middle East, but a danger to the United States. The case still lacks credibility and African-Americans and others should continue to refuse to accept war as the way to resolve this problem.

Ron Walters is Distinguished Leadership Scholar, director of the African American Leadership Institute and professor of government and politics at the University of Maryland-College Park.

Economic opportunity and social issue trump environment as top concern for poor minorities

Environmental laws are unfair to minorities and the poor because, although they are least able to pay, they must bear the greatest costs for adhering to those laws through lost jobs and higher prices.

The time is long overdue for government to start considering the negative economic impact of proposed environmental laws on impoverished minorities before implementation.

So concludes the results of a recent survey of 69 environmental justice groups conducted by the National Center for Public Policy Research. These groups represent a diverse collection of African-American, Hispanic and Native American activist organizations. These groups have also identified themselves, to varying degrees, as concerned about environmental justice for minorities and the poor.

In 1994, President Bill Clinton attempted to establish an environmental justice policy by issuing an executive order. That order required feder-

al agencies to promote environmental justice for minorities and the poor by ensuring that agency policies do not inflict additional environmental burdens on these Communities. The order stems from the belief that the poor and minorities suffer more environmental ills than other Americans.

But, as the National Center survey discovered, this concept of environmental justice is woefully inadequate. While not denying the need to ensure that minorities are not inflicted additional excessive environmental problems, the groups surveyed by the National Center understand true environmental justice to include far more than just the natural environment the social and economic environment as well. The results of the survey suggest that true environmental justice, according, to these groups, also means taking into account the urgent need for economic improvement, better-paying jobs, educational opportunity and access to better health care.

When asked, for instance, to rank

their top public policy concern out of a list of six issues - education, health care, racism, economic advancement, environmental progress and crime - only six percent of environmental justice groups ranked the environment as their top priority. An overwhelming 91% of respondents ranked education, health care, fighting racism and economic advancement as more important than environmental issues.

Likewise, 72% of environmental justice groups disagreed with the idea that low-income communities should be deprived of jobs, higher incomes and other economic opportunities if that is necessary to enforce environmental laws and regulations. This concern for balancing economic issues environmental concerns was reflected throughout the survey. For example, 57% of surveyed groups said that environmental goals must be balanced by concern for economic opportunities for the poor. This

See ENVIRONMENT on page 5

BUSINESS EXCHANGE

Broadcaster partners to provide new black cable network

By William Reed

Will You Have Radio One and Comcast's Venture In Your House?

An African-American mother and son team has parlayed their interest and involvement in Black culture toward becoming the most dominant force in delivery of information to this group. Cathy Hughes, and her son Alfred Liggins III, who already own the nation's 7th largest broadcasting net-

work, is creating a new cable channel aimed at African Americans. The network, which will carry 24 hours of entertainment, news, opinion and sports programming, is a venture between their Lanham, MD-based Radio One, Inc. and the nation's largest cable provider - Philadelphia-based Comcast Corp.

The companies say they expect to launch the network, yet to be named, by the middle of this year. It's designed to

mainly appeal to Black viewers 25 to 54 years old. The companies say they have the resources to bring the station to the air by Summer 2003. Typically, cable networks launch in summer when television networks are showing reruns. Liggins says Radio One plans to pay up to \$70 million over the next four years to start the channel. Comcast, along with three other investors, plans to invest up to \$60 million. While the companies don't say when they expect to break even, channels usually become successful when they reach between 20 million and 25 million subscribers. New channels usually require about \$125 million in capital and a reach of about 50 million homes before turning a profit.

The new channel could be an aggressive competitor to Black Entertainment Television, which so far has only faced competition from low-budget regional channels targeting black viewers. A national Black cable network launched by New Urban Entertainment (NUE-TV) has shut down operations. Millionaire attorney Willie Gary's Major Broadcasting Corp. is still on the air, however it is only on a few cable systems. Due to the Comcast connection, Radio One's venture has the opportunity to be on every major metropolitan system where African Americans are concentrated. Comcast serves 21 of the top 25 U.S. markets, where 50 percent of Blacks reside. According to Nielsen media research, BET reaches more than 74.5 million households. African Americans

are the largest minority segment among U.S. television households and generally watch more television than other segments of the population. Blacks comprise 13 percent of the U.S. population and have an annual buying power exceeding \$572 billion.

"African-Americans have experienced explosive population and per-capita income growth and are one of this country's most attractive consumer demographic groups," says Liggins, the 38-year-old who will head the network. He earns over \$1 million a year as chief executive of Radio One, a \$3 billion operation that includes 66 radio stations, a tel-

evision station and 2,000 employees. The deal came after a year of intense negotiations that involved several key African American business owners interested in launching a network targeting Blacks. Others that tried to put a network together included hip-hop mogul Russell Simmons and television actor and producer Tim Reid. Reid said: "Key to getting Radio One's project launched was its ability to lure a partner like Comcast, the nation's biggest cable television operator, which has the money, connections and infrastructure to launch a national network. It's a very expensive and difficult thing to do".

Senator Ron Rice eases red tape for minority and women-owned businesses

TRENTON - The Assembly Commerce and Economic Development Committee approved legislation today sponsored by Senator Ronald L. Rice that would ease documentation requirements for minority and woman owned businesses. "My hope is that first-time applicants can bypass some of the cumbersome and time consuming paper work for minority and women-owned certification," said Senator Rice (D-Essex). "I would like to see small business growth enhanced and bolstered, not stifled and sowed."

To be qualified as a minority or women owned small business, under 5-75, the names and addresses of the owner, partners and shareholders must be disclosed. In the case of a corporation, any board of directors must reveal their names and addresses. Other items in

the application process include giving the number of shares of stock issued and outstanding, any articles of incorporation or partnership agreements and organizational charts of the business.

Personal information such as federal or state income tax returns cannot be required as part of the criteria.

Once the applicant has completed a first year re-certification process, they would be required to reapply every five years.

"More bills should mirror this one," said Senator Rice. "This idea is just one of many that can help businesses flourish in areas that are in need of serious economic development, but have online support to do so."

The bill now awaits approval in the full Assembly.

Environment trumped by other problems

Continued from page 4

includes 20% who believe that minorities must be protected against costly environmental regulations that deprive them of much needed jobs.

Indeed, the need for introducing a sense of balance to environmental policy was of pre-eminent concern. When asked if environmental laws are applied unevenly. Such that minorities pay the (greatest costs, in terms of lost jobs and higher prices, of environmental regulations, 63% agreed. In addition, 47% of environmental justice groups believe that environmental regulatory agencies are unsympathetic to the needs and concerns of the poor and minorities. Not surprisingly, then, 74% of environmental justice groups believe that government should be required to determine that proposed environmental laws would not have a disproportionate impact on

minority and low-income communities before being adopted.

Despite this clear call for economic fairness, the government's current environmental justice policy ignores these concerns. Since President Clinton's 1994 executive order, several poor communities with substantial minority residents have been deprived of urgently needed job-creating businesses by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in the name of the Administration's skewed concept of environmental justice. In one of the more outrageous cases, Select Steel Inc. proposed to build a \$175 million steel mill that would create 200 jobs in the economically-distressed community of Genesee County, Michigan. But at the prodding of a handful of local activists crying environmental racism, the EPA claimed that pollution from Select Steel would unfairly

affect minorities. In 1998, the company was forced to locate to a more economically affluent area. Senator Carl Levin (D-MI) blasted the EPA's harassment of Select Steel, wondering "how in heaven's name would the environment of this nation be improved" by thwarting job-creation in depressed communities.

Environmental improvement certainly is important but, to many environmental justice groups fighting on behalf of their impoverished communities, it is hardly the only policy priority. Jobs, quality education and health care are often equally or more important concerns to struggling minorities. Indeed, by not balancing the need for economic improvement and other goals, the government's current environmental justice policy becomes environmental injustice.

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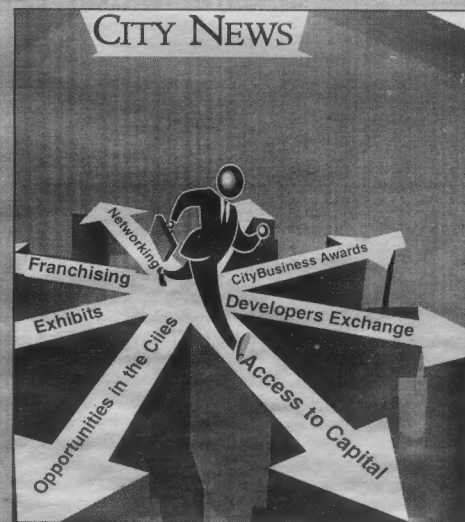
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Health Brief

LINDA SYLVESTER — FIRST RECIPIENT OF AHA AWARD OF EXCELLENCE

Linda Sylvester, R.N., of Wayne, Administrative Director of Resuscitation Services at the Community Training Center at Newark Beth Israel Medical Center, recently became the first recipient of the American Heart Association's Dr. Claus Schultz Award of Excellence. The award, named for the man who created the first CPR training program in New Jersey in 1974, was presented to Ms. Sylvester in recognition of her exemplary service in the field of CPR and first aid training.

CULTURAL VALUES EXPLAIN LOW VACCINATION RATE FOR DIABETIC MINORITIES

Minorities with diabetes are less likely to be vaccinated for the flu and pneumonia than whites are - even when they have equal healthcare access, insurance and socioeconomic status, a new study finds. Cultural values held by minorities as well as healthcare providers may help explain this, the researchers say. Diabetes is more common among minorities, and African-Americans and Hispanics with this chronic disease have higher death rates and suffer more complications than whites do. Because having diabetes increases vulnerability to the flu and pneumonia, current guidelines recommend flu and pneumonia shots for diabetics.

YOUNG WOMEN WITH LOW ESTROGEN LEVEL BEAT RISK OF HEART ATTACK

Women with relatively low levels of estrogen in their bodies before menopause appear to be at higher risk for clogging of the heart arteries than their peers with higher levels of estrogen, researchers recently announced.

Relatively young women are more than twice as likely to die from a heart attack as relatively young men, and the current findings suggest that low estrogen may hinder a woman's recovery from the heart attack, Dr. Noel Bairey Merz said.

Bairey Merz and her colleagues discovered that women with relatively low levels of estrogen who were being checked out for heart disease were more than seven times as likely to show signs of clogged arteries as women with normal estrogen levels who were also being checked for possible heart disease.

The women were all under 55 years of age, and had hormone levels that indicated they had not yet gone through menopause.

The Black Community confronts sexuality, HIV

Continued from page 1

undiscussed-homosexuality among Black men.

St. Arromand's father responded with tears, rather than violence, upon hearing of his son's HIV diagnosis, and has since become a concerned and supportive parent. St. Arromand's mother, however, has-

"Coming out in the African-American community often means being doubly discriminated against."

-Robert Fullilove
Columbia University

n't spoken to him since the day she discovered he was gay.

He says the trauma of being put out onto the street as a teenager led him to find comfort and shelter wherever he could, including in activities that put him at risk for HIV.

And in a pattern that experts say may be all too common, the shame he carried about being gay was something he says kept him from getting an HIV test long after he began to show AIDS symptoms.

"I just kept thinking, 'It can't be me; it can't be me,'" said St. Arromand. "Where we come from, in Haiti, being gay is something you just don't do. The very notion of going for an HIV test was almost like a confession of something being wrong with me, so I stayed away."

Robert Fullilove, a Columbia University researcher who has worked extensively on HIV prevention among African-Americans, says gay men of African descent often feel as if they have to choose between being Black and being gay.

"Coming out in the African-American community often means being doubly discriminated against," said Fullilove. "You deal with all of the issues related to being African-American, and with all of the issues related to homosexuality. There is an overwhelming sense that friends and family would not understand."

Ron Simmons, executive director of Washington, D.C.-based Us Helping Us, an AIDS outreach organization serving African-American men, takes the observation one step further.

"The social systems that protect and affirm Black families, like the church and schools, are often not available to Black gay men," said Simmons. "Those institutions should be the first to attack. The first time you're called a faggot is not by a white racist, it's by your father or brother."

Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan, medical director of an HIV clinic called OASIS at the Martin Luther King, Jr./Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles, puts it another way.

"There are mothers who disown their sons for being homosexual, but they have two other kids in prison and go to visit them every week," Jordan said. "So why is it that you can love your son if he murders, but you can't love your son if he's homosexual?"

"Our thinking has to evolve into a higher level of understanding and love and tolerance," Jordan said. "The reason kids don't get tested is that they know that

they'll be shunned if they get tested, and their families will turn their backs on them. Doctors can't change that, only families can change it. But until we're comfortable talking about AIDS as a disease, and say that we're going to be there for you if you test positive, it can't change."

All of this can add up to a substantial barrier to HIV education, experts say.

"More than anything else, discrimination keeps men who need the information away from doctors and clinics," said Fullilove. "The fear of being 'outed' as gay, or of being rejected, even by the doctor, keeps people from being tested."

The number of young gay Black men infected with HIV speaks volumes about how pressing the need for change is, and the challenges of reaching men at risk with HIV prevention information. According to a recent study by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 32 percent of young gay and bisexual Black men in six urban areas were infected with HIV, compared to 14 percent of Latino men, and seven percent of Whites. Ninety-one percent of the Black men were unaware of their infection.

"We must address the urgent prevention needs of African-American gay and bisexual men, especially young men," said Dr. Ronald O. Valdiserri of the CDC. "Prevention programs must be tailored to the specific needs of these men, expanded, and embraced by the community in order to be effective."

Experts emphasize that there is no evidence that African-Americans are more averse to homosexuality than White Americans, or any other social group in the United States. For African-American men already faced with discrimination, however, anti-gay prejudice adds another heavy burden.

But progress, even if slow, is being made towards increasing acceptance and understanding of gay African-Americans.

Bill Peters, executive director of the organization Gay Men of African Descent

"There are mothers who disown their sons for being homosexual, but they have two other kids in prison and go to visit them every week."

-Dr. Wilbert C. Jordan,
Martin Luther King Jr./
Drew Medical Center in Los Angeles

(GMAD), points to the success of his Harlem-based organization as a sign of positive change.

"Our organization provides a safe space where people can come to 125th Street and be gay," he said. "They don't have to leave the neighborhood to get support."

Elsewhere, too, African-Americans have responded to the AIDS crisis by creating programs that reach those at risk, including gay and bisexual men, with life-saving information and support.

Simmons' organization, Us Helping Us, uses the term "down low" for same-sex sexual activity that men keep hidden

from their female partners. Sex on the "down low" is considered to be a significant bridge for transmitting the HIV virus to women. The organization's hotline is known as the Down-Low Helpline.

Trent Royster, who works a late shift on the Down Low Helpline, said the important question is not how people label themselves, but how they communicate about issues like safer sex.

"I get straight men who want to talk about how HIV is transmitted, women who are wondering if their man is having sex with other men, and men who've never been able to tell another person that they're gay," he said. "A lot of the guys who call are very stressed because they're having secret, late-night sex and are worried about protecting their wives and fam-

"This article may cost me a friend, but if I lose someone, they weren't my friend anyway. Maybe someone else out there will read it, and say, 'Oh, that's cool; there's hope.' I know that hearing stories of other people with HIV-what happened to them, and how they overcame it-that's what helped me."

-Adolph St. Arromand
North Jersey Research Initiative

ilies."

Fullilove argues for an AIDS health agenda that is directed to all African-American men, without judgments and labels based on sexual stereotypes.

"Black men are getting their butts kicked," Fullilove said. "The public health agenda needs to acknowledge that Black men are at risk for any number of conditions-diabetes, hypertension, AIDS, or prostate cancer." He calls for a public health approach that's non-judgmental-and that doesn't segment messages so completely that they miss the people who most need to hear them.

For his part, Adolph St. Arromand-the young man who was put out onto the street at 15-is a testament to the power of courage, and the possibility of change. St. Arromand now works for the North Jersey Research Initiative, directing a program that serves young men at high risk for HIV.

His father has also changed-rather than urging his son not to shame the family, he now urges him to write a book about the experience of being young, Black, gay and living with HIV.

St. Arromand says he's not ready for that, and that even speaking to a reporter represents a big step.

"This article may cost me a friend, but if I lose someone, they weren't my friend anyway," he says. "Maybe someone else out there will read it, and say, 'Oh, that's cool; there's hope.' I know that hearing stories of other people with HIV-what happened to them, and how they overcame it-that's what helped me."

An Evening with Harriette Cole in Newark

New Brunswick — Friends' Health Connection and Columbus Hospital present "Choosing Truth: Living an Authentic Life". The lecture, featuring inspirational speaker Harriette Cole, will be held on Wednesday, February 26, at 7 p.m. in Columbus Hospital, Newark. Tickets for are \$10 and are available by contacting Friends' Health Connection at (800) 483-7436.

Harriette's lecture, based on her book "Choosing Truth: Living an Authentic Life" will provide a one of a kind prescription for revitalizing our lives by cultivating a spiritual life and embracing truth. Her message is aimed at an audience of diverse faiths and, backgrounds. At the lecture she will share her personal stories of challenge and triumph. This event will help attendees learn and discover how to use their inherent ability to present themselves effectively while embracing honesty, acceptance and compassion towards others.

Harriette has launched a multidimensional career in fashion, lifestyle, and image development of African Americans.



Black History Observance Bethany Baptist Church features Dr. Charles Ogletree

Dr. Charles Ogletree, Harvard Law Professor and leading Proponent of Reparations will be speaking at Bethany Baptist Church, 275 West Market Street, Newark, New Jersey at 10:00 a.m. on Sunday, February 16, 2003. Dr. Charles Ogletree, the Harvard Law School Jesse Climanko Professor of Law and recently appointed Associate Dean for Clinical Programs, is a prominent legal theorist who has made an international reputation by taking a hard look at complex issues of law and by working to secure the rights guaranteed by the Constitution for everyone equally under the law.

Armed with an arsenal of facts, Charles Ogletree presents and discusses the challenges that face our justice system.

Professor Ogletree has a long record of commitment and service to public schools and higher education. Currently, Professor Ogletree serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the University of the District of Columbia, a landgrant and historically black college and university. He continues to serve as the Chairman of the Board of B.E.L.L. Foundation, which is committed to educating minority children in after school programs in several northeast cities. Professor Ogletree attended public schools in his home town of Merced, California, and has set up a scholarship fund there that now annually provides support for needy students who want to pursue higher education.

Dr. Joycelyn speaks at UMDNJ African American History month program

Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former United States Surgeon General, will deliver a lecture at the Piscataway campus of the University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey (UMDNJ) on Friday, Feb. 21, as part of the university's observance of African American History month.

Dr. Elders speech, entitled "Disparities in Health Care and the Role of Cultural Competency," will take place at 7 p.m. at the UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School's Main Lecture Hall, 675 Hoes lane, Piscataway. Dr. Janice Johnson, assistant dean for Multicultural Affairs and director of Special Academic Programs at UMDNJ-Robert Wood Johnson Medical School, will provide greetings and introduce Dr. Elders. It will be preceded by a reception at 6 p.m. sponsored by the medical school's Office of Multicultural Affairs in the Great Hall.

Dr. Elders, an Arkansas native who rose from childhood poverty to national prominence, received her medical degree from the University of Arkansas Medical School in 1960 and became a board-certified pediatric endocrinologist. She served on the medical school's faculty until 1987, when she was appointed director of the Arkansas Department of Health.

In 1993, when U.S. President Bill Clinton appointed Dr. Elders to serve as the U.S. Surgeon General, she became the first African American to hold this position. In this role, she advocated for universal health coverage, health care reform and sex education for youth.

The Cultural Competency Distinguished Lecture is jointly sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the Student National Medical Association and the Office of Affirmative Action/EEO. For more information, contact Sharonda McKinney at (732) 235-2142.



There's a lot of Black History to be seen in Atlantic City



Club Harlem on No. Kentucky Ave., Circa 1965. From the Vicki Gold Levi Collection

Continued from page 1

thriving black community, with entertainment for both residents and visitors. The beach at Missouri Avenue was the principle black beach, due to the unwritten segregation practices. "Chicken Bone Beach," as it was called, was designated

as a historic landmark by New Jersey in 1997. Today the African American struggle for freedom and equality is commemorated in Atlantic City's Civil Rights Garden at Carnegie Library, located at Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and Pacific Avenue. This public sculpture garden memorializes many of the

brave voices of the Civil Rights Movement. Quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., Harriette Tubman, Frederick Douglass, Thurgood Marshall and others are inscribed on the fountain pool and black granite columns imported from Africa. It's an appropriate place to reflect upon the meaning of freedom for all Americans.

Where to go in Atlantic City

- Atlantic City Free Public Library. History of Gospel Music presentation by Aaron Bagley, Feb. 22, 1 p.m. Bagley, the musical director for the Cathedral Greater Exodus Baptist Church, will speak about and play old gospel songs, accompanied by church choir members.

- Emlen Physick Estate Carriage House Gallery. Stompin' at the Shore. A traveling exhibit from the Atlantic City Historical Society, through May 4. Louis Armstrong, Cab Calloway, Sammy Davis Jr., Billie Holiday and Aretha Franklin were just some of the African American performers who played the Jersey Shore in the first half of the 20th century. The exhibit features more than 60 photographs, period advertisements, memorabilia, artifacts and oral histories. Emlen Physick Estate, 1048 Washington St., Cape May.

Dates and hours vary. Admission to the exhibit is \$2 for adults and free with any estate tour. 609-884-5404. www.capemaymac.org.

- Mid-Atlantic Center for the Arts. Paul Robeson Through His Words and Music, a one-man show performed by Derrick McQueen, Feb. 23 at 4:30 p.m. Paul Robeson was born to a former slave in 1898, and won a four-year academic scholarship to Rutgers University in 1915. He was a star athlete and graduated valedictorian of his class in 1919. Robeson achieved fame as an actor and singer, starring in the musical, Showboat, and 11 films. At the height of his career, Robeson became an eloquent and controversial spokesman against racism and discrimination.

- Atlantic Cape Community College. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.: A Historical Perspective, the authorized

biographical film. Jan. 30 at 12:15 p.m. Using rare and largely unseen film footage and photographs, writer/director Tom Friedman explores how Dr. King's ideas, beliefs and methods evolved in the rapidly changing climate of the Civil Rights Movement. Presented in the Walter Edge Theater. Free. Feb. 18-20, African American Marketplace sponsored by the Black Student Alliance. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the lobby of J building. Atlantic Cape Community College. 5100 Black Horse Pike, Mays Landing. 609-343-5010. www.atlantic.edu.

- Richard Stockman College of New Jersey. Black History semester. The college offers programs with African American themes throughout the entire spring semester, including lectures, classes, traditional African music and dance and more. For program information call 609-652-4950.

Aljira presents 'Moved by Awe' in Newark's downtown arts district

NEWARK — Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art, the leading contemporary visual arts organization in New Jersey, recently announced the first show in its newly renovated exhibition space.

"After being dark for two years, the lights at Aljira are on again, illuminating the work of eighteen artists from the Aljira Emerge 2001 fellowship program. This event also marks the reintroduction of Aljira, a vital center for creative excellence, into Newark's bustling downtown arts district," said Victor L. Davson, Executive Director of Aljira, a Center for Contemporary Art. "Everyone is welcome to attend our first exhibition and enjoy our new space."

Moved by Awe, curated by Arlene Raven, is running now until March 12, 2003 exclusively at Aljira.

Artists represented in Moved by Awe are Pedro CruzCastro, B.J. Ervick, Nicholas Evans Cato, Rita Grendze, Marion E. Held, Suki Kurjian, Lisa Petsu Lagunes, Megan LeBorjous, Greg Leshe, Sharon Libes, Julie A. McConnell, Nisa Rauschenberg, Mariano Del Rosario, Elizabeth Riley, Sheila Ross,

James Teixeira, Reynolds Tenazas-Norman and Gloria E. Williams. Curator Arlene Raven is an award-winning art historian, accomplished author and critic, and a founder of the Women's Caucus for Art, the Los Angeles Women's Building and Chrysalis magazine.

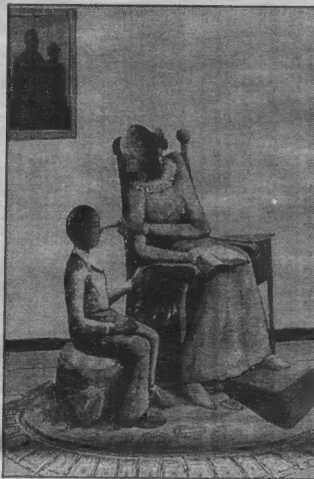
"The goal of Emerge is to prepare artists for the 21st century by providing practical and

timely career advice, networking opportunities in the art world and experience in participating in a curated exhibition with an illustrated catalog," said Judith Page, Emerge Project Director. "Launched in 1999, Emerge is the only program of its kind in New Jersey."

Aljira is located at 591 Broad Street in Newark, NJ.

Generations at the Atrium

Art in the Atrium, Inc presents 'Generations'—an exhibition and sale of African American Art through March 28, 2003. Represented here is work by Benny Andrews titled "Touch". Mr. Andrews is one of this year's featured artists.



E Briefs

Check this out!

—Kim Bowman



50 Cent's debut album breaks record



Queens rapper 50 Cent's debut album Get Rich Or Die Trying will have shattered the record for the most albums sold for a debut artist. Snoop Dogg previously held the record. This week, 50 Cent's claimed the number one position on Billboard's Top 200 Albums chart. The album sold 872,000 copies in two days entering the album charts at number one.

P-Diddy signs deal with Universal



Sean "P-Diddy" Combs has signed a 3-year deal with Universal Records to distribute and promote his Bad Boy Entertainment record label.

P-Diddy will retain full ownership of his company and artists. He has been hoping to get at least a \$100 million dollar deal, but after 8 months of negotiating, Universal offered the best deal, according to P-Diddy. "I'm blessed to make the money,"

Combs told the Associated Press. "But what I'm trying to do is make history, make some hit records."

"It's been a difficult time to negotiate a new record deal," said Combs. "This has been a wake up call for me."

New Edition, Dream, 8Ball & MJG, and Loon are all scheduled for upcoming releases under the new deal.

Couple from ABC's "The Bachelor" calls it quits



Aaron Buerge and Helene

Eksterowicz, the couple brought together by the second edition of ABC's hit "reality" series "The Bachelor," have called off their engagement. Aaron Buerge and Helene Eksterowicz will appear on a special Feb. 20 on ABC to discuss what led to their breakup. Buerge told his hometown

paper, the Springfield, Missouri, News-Leader, that one of the reasons the relationship ended was an excess of media attention. "The Bachelor," which follows a young man choosing a prospective mate from a bevy of attractive female contenders, was a major hit for the network on Wednesday nights earlier this season. This season the network tried "The Bachelorette".

It's finally goodbye to Jenny Jones



After twelve years on the talk show circuit, the Jenny Jones Show has been canceled. Warner Bros. Domestic Television is expected to announce the shows cancellation any day now.

"Laundromat"—Nivea's new single on radio



Recording artist Nivea's new single "Laundromat" is produced by Grammy Award winning artist and producer R. Kelly. The video will be shot this month in New York.

Nivea latest single "Don't Mess With My Man" featuring Brian and Brandon Casey of Jagged Edge, just earned a Grammy nomination in the Best R&B Collaborative Performance category. Catch Nivea on the 45th Annual Grammy Awards, Feb. 23 on CBS.

Nick Cannon drops onto the music scene



Actor Nick Cannon of Nickelodeon's Nick Cannon Show has set his sight on music. The Jive recording artist is releasing the first single off his upcoming self titled debut album, "Your Pops Don't Like Me". Cannon started his career as a comedian and as a teenager, he shared the stage at comedy clubs with the likes of Chris Tucker, Damon Wayans and Chris Rock. His big break came when he secured a spot for himself on the popular kids' channel Nickelodeon. Cannon is also the star of Twentieth Century Fox's hit movie Drumline.

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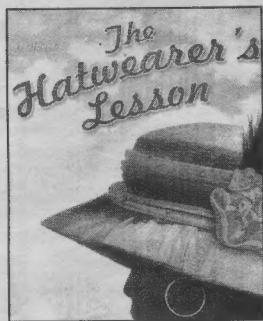
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Book Reviews

The Hatwearer's Lesson/ By Yolanda Joe/ Dutton/ March 10, 2003/ \$23.95



Yolanda Joe's seventh novel, "The Hatwearer's Lesson" is a poignant, richly drawn tale of love, betrayal, and the old school values of family and faith. Set in contemporary Chicago and rural Arkansas, Joe's story is inhabited by some of her most memorable characters to date: Grandma Ollie, the woman who knows how to wear a hat with style, and to see "signs" that both foretell the future and evoke the past; Terri, the high powered attorney who was raised by Ollie after her

mother died in childbirth, and who learns the wisdom of "going with her gut" when it comes to matters of the heart; Derek, the sexy player who betrays Terri and tries to win her back; and Lynnwood, the other man in Terri's life, whose simple ways and stripped bare emotion triumphs over flash and cash.

The trouble begins when Grandma Ollie is unable to enter Terri's engagement to Derek in her bible. She sees this as a bad omen, and, sure enough, Derek is caught cheating on Terri. Terri returns to Arkansas after Ollie has a hip operation, where she reunites with the people from her childhood and meets Lynnwood Kirkland, a rodeo cowboy with a hard body and a gentle soul. As she listens to Grandma Ollie's stories about her first love, her true love, and why "the deepest fire makes the strongest metal," Terri is pulled farther and farther away from the life she left behind in the city.

In the tradition of J. California Cooper and Terry McMillan, "The Hatwearer's Lesson" confirms Yolanda Joe's place as one of the country's most gifted storytellers.

Yolanda Joe is the bestselling author of "He Say, She Say," "Bebe's By Golly Wow," and "This Just In." She is also the author of two mysteries under her pseudonym Ardella Garland. Yolanda Joe is a graduate of Yale University and the Columbia School of Journalism.

Crossroads announces close of Season and transition to New Vision.

New Brunswick, N.J. — Crossroads Theatre Company announced recently that it would present "Manchild in the Promise Land" as its fourth and final production of its 2002-2003 celebratory season. In accordance with its new strategic mission, the Crossroads Board of Trustees decided to move the presentation of the play from their traditional Crossroads building at 7 Livingston Avenue to the Lord Sterling School located on George Street.

"Manchild in the Promise Land" is an adaptation of the book based on the life of a young African-American youth growing up in Harlem.

Performances are scheduled for Friday, March 14 at 8:00 p.m., Saturday, March 15 at 3:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., and Sunday, March 16 at 3:00 p.m.

The Saturday matinee performance will be offered to New Brunswick students and their families free of charge on a first come, first serve basis. A student-ID will be required.

Joe Edwards, who will be featured in this presentation, is an actor / playwright who most recently appeared in the film "Bad Company."

Edwards has also starred in the recent presentation of "Manchild in the Promise Land" presented by Passage Theatre in Trenton which collaborated with Crossroads to bring the production to the New Brunswick stage. "We have spent the past few months asking ourselves tough questions about artistic excellence, audience development and financial stability," said Roberta Coleman, Executive Director of Crossroads Theatre.

"Our new vision, which will be released shortly, reflects these key elements as well as a renewed commitment to the community," Coleman added. "What better way to demonstrate this renewed commitment than by bringing the theatre to the community."

"The board has approved a new vision model which includes schools, faith-based

organizations, non-profits, arts organizations and the business community as partners in our renewed success," said Marguerite Mitchell-Ivey, President of the Crossroads Board of Trustees.

"As we close our season, I'd like to express our gratitude to Crossroads subscribers, contributors, patrons, and the community. We faced so many challenges and overcame numerous obstacles with the help and support of people who understand and appreciate the importance of Crossroads and multi-cultural theatre controlled, produced and presented by people of color."

It is also important that our supporters know that this season was simply a new beginning, not the end. Not only did we reduce our debt significantly and put on a well-received season of productions without a major rise in debt, but we also developed a viable plan for our future," Mitchell-Ivey stated. "This truly feel is a celebration of our spirit and resilience."

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ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS

Fire Alarm Upgrades at Various Sites
For
The Long Branch Housing Authority

Sealed bids for the Fire Alarm Upgrades at Various Sites for the Long Branch Housing Authority, Garfield Court Administration Building, located in Long Branch, NJ.

The Long Branch Housing Authority shall receive sealed bids by Wednesday, February 26, 2003 at the Administrative Offices until 2:00 PM. At 2:00 PM, all bids shall be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids must be submitted prior to the designated time for acceptance and opening of bids, and be submitted either by mail or in person by the Bidder or his agent. **NO BIDS SHALL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE DESIGNATED TIME.**

A pre-bid meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, February 19, 2003 at 10:00 AM in the main conference room at the Housing Authority's Administration Building at Garfield Court. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is not mandatory but is strongly recommended.

All bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope bearing the name of the Bidder and clearly marked "Fire Alarm Upgrades at Various Sites".

The Information to Bidders, Form of Bid, Plans and Specifications may be reviewed and/or obtained at the Garfield Court Administrative Offices of the Housing Authority at any time during the regular business hours of 9:00 AM to 4:30 PM, Monday to Friday upon payment of a non-refundable fee of \$50.00 per set in check or money order after 12:00 PM on Tuesday, February 11, 2003. Telephone the Authority at (732) 222-3747, extension #126 or #129, with any questions.

All Bidders are required to submit a certified check payable to the order of the Long Branch Housing Authority in an amount equal to five percent (5%) or the bid or a bid bond for a like sum executed by a Surety Company authorized to do business in the State of New Jersey and be acceptable to the Federal Government. The Bid Bond, Consent of Surety and the Performance and Payment bond must be listed in the Federal Treasury Department Circular 570.

In the event the Bidder is a Corporation or a Partnership, a notarized statement must be submitted setting forth the names and addresses of all stockholders in the Corporation or Partnership who owns ten percent (10%) or greater interest therein as the case may be. Each bid must be accompanied by a certification by the Bidder regarding Equal Employment Practice, a Non-collusive Affidavit and a Statement of Compliance with bidding requirements. The successful Bidder shall be required to furnish and pay for Performance and Payment bonds in an amount equal to one hundred percent (100%) of the contract price.

The Authority does not obligate itself to accept the lowest bid and reserves the right to waive any informalities in the bidding process or to accept or reject any or all bids if deemed in the best interest of the Authority.

Tyrone Garrett, PHM, Executive Director
Housing Authority of the City of Long Branch

\$30.62

HOUSING AUTHORITY OF THE CITY OF NEW BRUNSWICK
INVITATIONS FOR PROPOSALS
EXTERMINATING SERVICES

The Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick will receive proposals for Exterminating Services for all Authority owned properties to be exterminated on a monthly basis. Proposed forms of documents including Specifications are on file at the office of the New Brunswick Housing Authority and may be picked up between the hours of 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. Monday through Friday. All proposals must be received at the New Brunswick Housing Authority, 65 Morris Street Second Floor, New Brunswick, New Jersey 08901 by 11:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 11, 2003, at which time all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any informalities in taking proposals. No proposal shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty days subsequent to the opening of proposals except with the consent of the Housing Authority of the City of New Brunswick. All proposals shall be submitted in triplicate, and must be returned sealed and marked **SEALED PROPOSAL FOR EXTERMINATING SERVICES** on the envelope.

John A. H. Clarke
Executive Director

\$13.47

JOB OPPORTUNITIES!!

Recreation Supervisor-

Bloomfield Recreation Commission is seeking self-motivated person to assist the Director in planning, developing, and promoting a recreation program designed to meet the needs of the community. Must possess a Bachelor's Degree-Recreation Major preferred. Minimum of 2 years experience in Professional Recreation. Send resumes to: Anthony Nesto, Director of Recreation, 84 Broad Street, Bloomfield, NJ 07003. Resumes will be accepted through March 1, 2003.

CALLING ALL SALES REPS

- ARE YOU A PEOPLE PERSON??
- IF THE ANSWER IS YES...

then New Jersey's leading African American newspaper is looking for you! We are looking for some dynamic, motivated, outgoing sales representatives to join our team. 1-2 years sales experience, excellent communication and people skills required. Must be deadline and goal oriented and have reliable transportation. If you're looking for a great way to increase your earning potential, then this is for you!

Please fax your resume to:
973.642.5444

MONTCLAIR STATE UNIVERSITY

ADVERTISEMENT FOR BIDS
The Director of Purchasing at Montclair State University, College Hall, Room 318D, Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043, will receive bids for:
Contract: HVAC Supplies
Request for Proposal #411
Montclair State University
Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043
until 3:00 p.m., Tuesday, February 25, 2003 in the President's Conference Room, College Hall, Room 231, Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, New Jersey, at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud.
The project consists of providing HVAC Supplies on an as needed basis.
A mandatory pre-bid meeting will be held at 1:00 p.m. on Tuesday, February 18, 2003 in the President's Conference Room, College Hall, Room 231, Montclair State University, Upper Montclair, New Jersey 07043. Attendance at the pre-bid meeting is a requirement of all prospective Bidders.
Copies of the proposal, including information for Bidders, bidding forms, and specifications may be obtained on or about February 10, 2003 at the office of the Director of Purchasing, College Hall, Room 318-D, Upper Montclair, New Jersey. Requests for additional information may be directed to Doretha Mollot, Buyer, at (973) 655-4563. Bid packages can be mailed. Any award of contract resulting from this Request for Proposal will be subject to the availability of funds. All proposals must be delivered or mailed. Electronic bids via fax or telephone will not be accepted. Bids must be enclosed in a sealed envelope/package bearing the name of the Bidder and clearly marked: RFP# 411-HVAC Supplies. Deadline for bidder's questions is Thursday, February 20, 2003 at 4:30 p.m.
The Proposal guarantee shall be in the amount of ten (10) percent of the bid and be given, at the option of the Bidder, by certified check, cashier's check or bid bond. Bidders shall include in their bid information about all Subcontractors to be used on this project as outlined in the bid documents. No bid shall be withdrawn for a period of sixty (60) days after the scheduled date and time of the bid opening. Montclair State University reserves the right to waive any informalities in any proposal and to reject any or all proposals. Bidders are required to comply with the requirements of R.I. 1923, c. 127 (N.J.A.C. 17:27) (Affirmative Action), State of New Jersey Prevailing Wage Rate Act and the provisions entitled "Minority and Female Subcontractor Participation in State Design and Construction Contracts," pursuant to N.J.A.C. 17:14.1 et. seq. and N.J.S.A. 52:25-242, P.L. 1977, Chapter 33, "Statement of Stockholders' Exceeding 10%," failure to do so shall result in disqualification of one bid. Montclair State University is an Equal Opportunity Purchaser.

YOUR

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HERE!!

To place your ad in
CITY NEWS call or email us at:

973.642.4400 or

Advertising@Citynewsnetwork.com

Calendar

Celebrate Black History Month Community

ONGOING - APRIL 31

Newark — A computer based 12-week GED course covering subject areas: Writing, Reading, Social Studies, Science and Mathematics, with a curriculum which covers life skills, job readiness and computer instruction, will be offered from Tuesday through Friday, 9:00 a.m. - 4 p.m. at La Casa de Don Pedro, 39 Broadway. For more info call 973-481-4713.

ONGOING - MARCH 1

Jersey City — New Jersey City University is offering preparation courses for the National Teachers Examination and the Graduate Record Examination on Saturdays from 9:00 - 11:30 a.m. this spring. For more info call 201-200-3089.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Wayne — Retired Tennessee Senator Fred Thompson will speak about national security during Distinguished Lecture Series at William Patterson University at 8:00 p.m. in Shea Center. For more info call 973-720-2371.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15

Paterson — The public is invited to participate in program in honor of Black History Month at the Paterson Library, Broadway Branch at 1:00 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 21

Piscataway — Dr. Joycelyn Elders, former U.S. Surgeon General will speak at UMDNJ's Black History Month Event, 675 Hoes Lane at 7:00 p.m. For more info call 732-235-2142.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Asbury Park — In celebration of Black History Month, Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity presents the "Sixth Annual PAC Fund Raiser" from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more info call 732-922-9514.

Morristown — Morristown National Park Service presents a tour of Ford Mansion focusing on Black History Month, the role Africans played in the American Revolution. For more info call 973-539-2016.

Newark — The National Black United Fund, Inc. will host its Heritage Luncheon at The Priory

Restaurant, 233 Market Street at 2:00 p.m. For more info call 973-643-5122.

Newark — New Jersey Historical Society presents photographs by African Americans in NJ from 12:30 - 1:30 p.m. and 2:30 - 3:30 p.m. For more info call 973-596-8500 ext 233.

Newark — College Fair, Workshop and on site job screenings will take place at Rutgers and NJIT campus from 8:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more info call 973-596-6503.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Newark — New Jersey United leadership invites the public to participate in an open discussion and debate about the state's public education system from 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Prudential Headquarters, Dryden Hall (7th Fl), 751 Broad St. For more info call 888-694-9900.

Heartbeat

ONGOING

Belleville — Clara Maass Medical Center will offer complimentary blood pressure screenings every fourth Monday of the month beginning January 27. For more info call 1-800-CLARA-MAASS.

Kearny — West Hudson Hospital offers women's alcoholic anonymous seminar at 7:30 p.m. For more info call 201-955-7556.

Irvington — Irvington General offers women's HIV/AIDS support group at 10:00 a.m. For more info call 973-275-0210.

Newark — WIC Program at UMDNJ offers a variety of support services to participants. Appointments are strongly recommended. For more info call 973-972-3416.

Newark — Beth Israel Medical Center offers free Breast Cancer Patient Support Group. For more info call 973-926-7609.

Newark — Beth Israel Medical Center offers a bereavement support group every second Monday each month at 6:00 p.m. For more info call 973-926-7278.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14

Newark — Beth Israel will offer a nutrition workshop for seniors from 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at Center for Geriatric Health Care, 156 Lyons Ave. For more info call 973-926-8491.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Hackensack — The Gilda's Club,



SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 15 — R & B singing Jaheim will perform at the Beacon Theater in New York at 7:30 p.m. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171. Come and experience the sounds of Mr. Ghetto love himself.

a gathering place for people living with cancer will host a lecture, "Making the Most of your Money" with cancer survivor Allen Levy from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. For more info call 201-457-1670.

Parsippany — The Greater North Jersey Multiple Sclerosis Chapter will host its 15th Annual MS Walk kick-off party from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at the Hilton Parsippany Hotel. For more info call 201-967-5599.

ONGOING - MARCH 13

Belleville — Clara Maass Medical Center will offer an exercise program "Building Better Bones" designed to develop muscles and strength. For more info call 973-450-2872.

Livingston — St. Barnabas will offer a ten-week program to help children develop healthy eating and physical activity habits. Classes are on Thursdays only. For more info call 973-322-5664.

ONGOING TUESDAYS, THURSDAYS - FEB 20

Elizabeth — The Division of Economic Development and Continuing Education will offer a course about childcare development, health care, etc. from 6:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. at Roselle Park High School and 8:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. at St. Hedwig's School. For more info call 908-709-7600.

WEDNESDAYS - APRIL 2

Livingston — St. Barnabas will offer a weight management program. At 6:00 p.m. For more info call 973-322-5664.

ONGOING - MARCH 10

Livingston — St. Barnabas Hospital will sponsor a five-week caregiver support workshop to assist individuals in identifying and managing stress from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. For more info call 973-322-7993.

Business

ONGOING

Newark — The Women's Center of Essex County College is sponsoring a series of seminars, support groups during Spring 2003 Semester. For more info call 973-877-3395.

FRIDAYS - MARCH 14

Newark — Rutgers Newark Small Business Development Center hosts a 'Hands-On Business Plan Workshop'. Classes are from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost is \$65. For more info call 973-353-5950.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19

Edison — Pathfinder Consulting Group will offer its Mega Job Fair at the Clarion Hotel & Towers from 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. For more info call 732-287-3500.

Artz

ONGOING - AUGUST 10

New York — American Museum of Natural History presents an exhibition of the work of Albert Einstein. For more info call the museum at 212-769-5800.

WED, FEB 12 - FRI, FEB 14

New York — Luther Vandross will perform at Madison Square Garden at 8:00 p.m. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

FRI, FEB 14 - SUN, FEB 16

New York — Comedian Talent will perform at Carolines. For more info and showtimes call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

New York — The Temptations Review featuring Dennis Edwards will perform at B.B. King. For more

info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 17

New York — Various artists will perform in "Salute to The Blues". A concert featuring Mos Def, B.B. King, Macy Gray, Bonnie Raitt and other artists at Madison Square Garden at 8:00 p.m. For more info call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Newark — Newark Public Library presents New Jersey native Regina Belle in a salute to Black History Month at 6:00 p.m. For more info call 973-733-3610.

Newark — Newark Museum will host a lecture with artist Mel Edwards, one of the leading African-American Artists from 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. For more info call 973-596-6550.

Newark — Arthur's Downtown presents recording artist, Ms. Carrie Jackson & her jazzin' All Stars at 6:00 p.m. For more info call 973-286-1700.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Newark — Symphony Hall presents The Jump Off Concert with Ginuwine and Cash Money Millionaires at 8:00 p.m.

THU, FEB 20 - SUN, FEB 23

New York — Comedians Adele Givens and Paul Mooney will perform at Carolines. For more info and showtimes call ticketmaster at 212-307-7171.

Religion

ONGOING

Newark — Greater Service Fellowship Church invites you to Sunday morning service at 9:00 a.m. and Wednesday Bible study at 7:00 p.m. If you have questions, come get the answers. For more info call 973-848-1711.

SUNDAYS FEBRUARY 16

Newark — St. Paul "Life Center" Church, UFWB, inc presents an outreach session for overcomers at 6:00 p.m. For more info call 973-622-6600.

Mail your calendar events and photographs at least two weeks in advance to:
City News Publishing
111 Mulberry St., TH-C
Newark, NJ 07102 or
Fax to: 973-642-5444

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